

scope. For example, West Virginia has 6,213 miles of impaired waters, 69 percent of which, are caused by mine drainage. In both Maryland and New Jersey greater than 25 percent of all surface waters are considered impaired. In New Jersey 76 percent of the impaired waters have impaired aquatic life. New York State has 3,324 miles of impaired waters. Connecticut has 4,119 miles of impaired streams and coastline. Vermont has 757 miles of impaired streams and 21,376 acres of impaired lakes, 43 percent of these have impaired aquatic life. New Hampshire and Maine combined have 3,588 miles of impaired streams/coastline and over 290,000 acres of impaired lakes. Correcting these problems will require both innovative solutions and a broad ecosystem based approach that considers both the waterways, and the land issues contributing to water degradation.

The intent of this legislative proposal is to establish a pilot program, with broad authority for comprehensive restoration in the Appalachian, New England, and Mid-Atlantic Regions of the United States. This authority will begin to address the longstanding problems of abandoned mine drainage and other non-point sources of pollution currently impairing water quality and species diversity on the region. The program is intended to provide seamless authority for the Corps of Engineers to plan, design and implement small ecosystem restoration projects in cooperation with non-Federal partners including States, local Governments and non-profit organizations. The cost sharing provisions of this authority are consistent with other Corps of Engineers continuing authorities and include innovative provisions to allow pilot testing of innovative technologies, allow non-Federal sponsorship by non-profit organizations, and allow non-Federal sponsors credit for in-kind services performed during the feasibility study phase of a project.

The total cost of the proposed legislation over the authorized six year term is \$200,000,000. This amount will not solve the regions' total ecosystem restoration needs but it will contribute substantially to meeting these needs and add to the overall non-Federal efforts currently in process. The estimated benefits of this program include improved water quality, restored ecosystem habitat and increased species diversity, both aquatic and terrestrial, economic benefits associated with restoration of stream and river fisheries, and other intangible benefits to communities associated with the visual improvement of environmental surroundings. This program will also provide much needed technical assistance to States and local communities in the assessment of environmental problems and the development of restoration strategies using the Corps' state of the art watershed modeling techniques and experience gained in environmental restoration.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the events of September 11th.

One year ago America suffered a horrible act of terrorism in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. Four planes, filled with innocent Americans, were turned into weapons at the hands of men filled with anger and hate, intent on bringing death and destruction to our great country. It is a day none of us will ever forget.

As the United States moves forward, we must remember those who died on September 11th, as well as the acts of heroism, valor and courage displayed on that day and the weeks and months to follow. I continue to find inspiration in the efforts of all Americans who risked their lives to save and heal their neighbors, co-workers, and strangers in need.

Let us also not forget the men and women in our armed forces who today are engaged in a campaign against terrorism, fighting to protect our freedom and seeking justice against those who attacked us. Their continued valor is a testament to the will and resolve of our great nation.

We will continue to pray for the victims and their families as we re-build the communities affected by those terrible acts of violence. Today, one year after this horrific act of terrorism, we, as Americans, re-affirm our highest beliefs in freedom, democracy and justice.

MARKING THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY RISE TO POWER OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IN BURMA

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the fourteenth anniversary of the bloody rise to power of the military dictatorship in Burma. This despotic regime has denied its people basic liberties and freedoms including democratic representation, free speech, and an independent press. Allegations have also come to light that this regime has used the mass rape of women and children to instill fear. They have imprisoned and murdered thousands of their political opponents and closed thirty universities since 1995 to suppress popular student opposition.

I would like to speak specifically to the issue of labor rights in Burma. It is an undisputed fact that the Government of Burma has forced thousands of its citizens into forced labor. Bonded servitude is woven into the social fabric of many nations, but in Burma it is even more contemptuous because it is nothing more than slavery at its core and it is sanctioned by the government and employed by its military.

For many years, international organizations including the International Labor Organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights have attempted to get the regime to emancipate its slaves. Burma has flaunted international sanctions and continues to be uncooperative and deny access to human rights organizations investigating these and many other human rights abuses.

Burma's military regime emphatically rejects core labor rights including prohibitions on child labor, forced labor, and freedom of association. This is even more disconcerting because the military elite prop up a system of sweatshops producing textile products for western markets. Even under strict quotas, Burmese textile exports have exploded into the U.S. market creating a direct source of hard currency for the military dictatorship. And there are credible allegations being investigated that many goods skirt sanctions by masking their country of origin.

Textile exports are the life support for the Burmese regime and we need a complete ban on Burmese exports until we see freedom and an end to slavery. I commend my colleagues and the Administration that have stood up for human rights in Burma and kept the pressure on the regime. Now is not the time to relax sanctions, but instead tighten the noose on one of the world's worst totalitarian governments.

SBA 504 AND 7(A) LOAN PROGRAM SUBSIDY RATE CALCULATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am concerned about the effects of an unjust tax on borrowers. Every time the Small Business Administration makes a 504 or 7(a) loan, the borrower pays an arbitrary and unnecessary fee.

The subsidy rates for the 504 and 7(a) have not reflected the actual performance of these loan portfolios over the past 11 years since the passage of the Credit Reform Act in 1990. The House Small Business Committee has repeatedly raised this issue with the Office of Management and Budget. OMB continues to use a flawed methodology to determine the cost of these loan programs to the government and SBA borrowers are forced to pay excessive fees that, since 1999, have totaled nearly \$2 billion.

Today, the typical SBA 504 borrower pays more than \$10,000 in excess fees and the typical 7(a) borrower pays more than \$2000 in excess fees to the government because OMB fails to accurately determine the subsidy rates of these loans. Congress never gave OMB the right to impose a \$10,000 tax on every 504 borrower or a \$2000 tax on every 7(a) borrower. Yet that is what OMB is doing by continually overstating these subsidy rates.

The SBA is responsible for more than 40 percent of all long-term lending to small businesses. The inability of OMB to accurately estimate the cost of subsidizing small business loans draws needed resources from the very businesses these programs are intended to assist.

Mr. Speaker, this problem is not a partisan problem. It has existed throughout the previous administration and the current administration. It requires immediate action. It is time to require OMB to recalculate the 7(a) and 504 program subsidy rates for FY 2003.

RECOGNITION TO NORMA BRITO TODD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a friend and constituent of the Sixth District of New Jersey. Mrs. Norma Brito Todd, who at 82 years of age, works as the director and coordinator of Lunch Break Inc. in Red Bank, New Jersey is being honored as New Jersey's Outstanding Older Worker.

Mrs. Todd was born in Long Branch, New Jersey on October 6, 1920. She was one of five children born to Joseph Brito, a real estate broker, and Lucy Brito, a homemaker. She grew up in Red Bank and attended River Street School and Red Bank High School. Norma began her college education at North Carolina State College in Durham, NC. She completed her studies at Cortez Peters Business School in Washington, DC. She graduated in 1944.

In Washington, Norma met and shortly thereafter married James Richard Todd. Together they embarked on a thirty-five year career and never-ending adventure in the U.S. Foreign Service, which took them all over the world. Some of their stops over the course of these thirty-five years included:

Cairo, Egypt, where Norma helped administer anti-cholera injections and taught hygiene to local townspeople. Norma had ample time to evacuate, but she chose to remain at her husband's side and assist during this epidemic. The Todd's older daughter, Cynthia, was born in Cairo.

Tel Aviv, Israel, Norma helped her husband distribute Social Security checks to retired Americans living in remote places in Israel. The Todd's second daughter, Coralle, was born during their stay in Israel.

Now at 81 years of age, Mrs. Norma Todd is the Director and Coordinator of the Lunch Break Program in Red Bank. She has held this position since 1983. She arrives at the center each morning at seven, stating that she needs a little peaceful time to herself before the hustle and bustle of the day begins.

Norma's colleagues describe her as: a mother, a teacher, a friend, or just a shoulder to cry on to those in the community who find themselves in need. She has a sparkle in her eye, and a bounce in her gait. Norma's life mission has always been to help those in need, both young and old. She has always devoted her time to her family and to public service. She has never measured her success by money but rather by her accomplishments throughout the world.

It is with great satisfaction and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join with me and

commend the extraordinary contributions of Mrs. Norma Brito Todd.

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today news reports reveal that over 300 Karen villagers fled their homes because State Peace and Development Council soldiers, known to the rest of the world as the government military dictatorship, burned their villages to the ground. Once again, villagers in Burma are living homeless in the jungle.

On September 18, 1988, the military forced its rule on the people of Burma, a rule that has been dominated by severe violence and oppression including rape, the enslavement of children, attacks on ethnic minorities, imprisonment and torture of democratic political opposition groups, and the destruction of homes and villages. The people of Burma have struggled to survive under this brutal regime. On this day of tragic remembrance, the United States and the entire international community must come together to support and assist the Karen, Karenni, Chin, Shan and other people of Burma.

The Burmese regime does not limit its attacks to ethnic minorities, but also brutally oppresses religious minorities. The military invades villages, divides families through forced relocation, and uses rape and murder to subjugate the people. The Karen community in southern Burma has been under severe attack by the Burmese military, particularly this year. Earlier this summer, I shared in a floor speech that I had photographic evidence of a massacre in the Karen State in Burma. The regime's troops brutally killed innocent civilians as they attempted to flee to refugee camps in neighboring Thailand. Despite promises to the international community that it will cease such blatant human rights violations, the regime refuses to take action against those responsible for the massacre. As usual, no investigation into the incident has occurred.

The SPDC regime deceives the international community again and again by saying one thing and then doing another. Recently, the SPDC freed democracy leader and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and promised to permit free political expression in Burma. Since that promise, however, the regime refuses to open a political dialogue with the National League for Democracy and Burma's ethnic communities.

The international community, on behalf of the people of Burma, should make it clear that the oppressive dictators of Burma will no longer be tolerated—we do not want to remember another anniversary of the human rights violations against Burma's people. Instead, next year on this day, we should be celebrating the return of democracy and freedom to the people of Burma.

I urge our Administration and my colleagues in Congress to act to support democracy in Burma and help provide aid to the suffering

ethnic minorities. In addition, I urge the international community to press Burma's regime to cease the violence and murder perpetrated against the people and allow the legitimately elected leaders of the country to govern.

FOR BURMESE FREEDOM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, fourteen years ago today the Burmese people rose up and protested, non-violently, against the military regime ruling their country. They marched—students, farmers, monks, academics, journalists and professionals alike—in front of the U.S. Embassy, in Rangoon, to tell the world that they wanted democracy. Our embassy heard their pleas, their shouts for freedom. In a nationwide uprising, that predated that of Tiananmen Square, thousands of brave souls lost their lives, in Rangoon alone. CNN did not record the event—TV coverage then, and today, is not allowed in Burma, unless stage-managed by the regime.

How fortunate the Burmese people are to have a leader, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who has willingly sacrificed her own freedom for that of her 50 million countrymen and women. Her party, the National League for Democracy, (NLD) won a free and fair election despite her being under house arrest, in 1990. The people of Burma voted for all which we hold sacred. Fourteen years is a long time to wait to honor the election results and the aspirations of the Burmese people.

The Congress and all administrations since that time, have supported the NLD and Burma's democracy movement. But we have done enough. The regime tells us, through their DC-based lobbyist, that they are willing to cooperate with the U.S. on counter narcotic measures. Evidence points to the contrary. Where is Khun Sa, the infamous drug lord? Although he has been under indictment in the Eastern District of New York for Federal drug violations that include conspiracy, importation of, and possession with intent to distribute heroin in the United States, he is believed to be residing in a military safe house in Rangoon, under a cease fire and amnesty agreement with the military junta. He is free; the Burmese people are not. He joins the generals in living without fear; while the Burmese people do not.

Accordingly, on this day fourteen years after the Burmese people gave their lives for democracy, we ask the world and this Congress for support to continue to pressure the regime until the aspirations of the Burmese people are fulfilled. I urge my colleagues not to forget that, in Burma, a parliamentary chamber has not been filled with an electorate.

Aung San Suu Kyi has said: "What we are concerned about is the freedom of political parties and the freedom of all the people of Burma." If we turn our backs on Burma, if we don't speak out, and act, in support of those who chose democracy, we will be undermining all duly elected public officials, including ourselves.